

Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2015

2:00 – 3:30

Community Court Conference Room, 80 Washington St., Hartford, CT

Commissioners present: Justice Lubbie Harper, Jr. (Chairperson), Preston Tisdale (Governor appointee), Regina Rush-Kittle (DESPP), Patrick Ridenhour (CPCA), Ernest Green (OCPD), Glenn Cassis (AAAC), Brian Austin (DCJ/OCSA), Carleton J. Giles (BOPP), Kimberly Weir (DOC), Ronnell Higgins (Majority Leader of the Senate appointee), Tracey Gove (Minority Leader of the House of Reps. appointee).

Others present: Esther Harris (Judicial), Subira Gordon (AAAC), Troy Brown (CSSD), Shawna Woodard (Judicial), Aileen Keays (Consultant – IMRP).

- I. Welcome**
 - a. Meeting commenced at 2:08pm
- II. Review and approve minutes from December 15th meeting**
 - a. Minutes were approved by voice vote
- III. Membership update**
 - a. *Interested parties:*
 - a. Ann Smith (AFCAMP)
 - b. Arlene Avery (APAAC)
 - c. Update – Commission is seeking change in statutory charge to broaden representation while narrowing focus of work. This would also add to its membership the Chairperson for the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission or designee. Commission is focusing efforts on securing enabling legislation change, and then once Commission has opportunity to review terms of legislation that passed, revisit seeking new appointments of members.
- IV. Updates on other commissions, committees and task forces**
 - a. [Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Committee](#) (CJPAC) – Judicial
 - a. No update
 - b. [Racial Profiling Prohibition Project](#) (RP3) – IMRP
 - a. Report will be released by the end of this month. Planning to host a joint committee meeting of the Judiciary and Public Safety & Security Committees at the LOB April 2nd to discuss the report's findings. Details are yet to be finalized. Also planning to host a series of community meetings around the state to discuss the report. This Thursday, the AAAC

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will hold one in Windsor and then will be planning one in Hartford & another in New Haven. Forums are to share data included in the report, provide information on the Alvin Penn Act statute, respond to questions, etc.

- c. [CT Sentencing Commission](#) (CSC) – IMRP
 - a. CSC has submitted testimony in support of SB 796 “An Act Concerning Lengthy Sentences for Crimes Committed by a Child or Youth and the Sentencing of a Child or Youth Convicted of Certain Felony Offenses”. Seems to have the support necessary to pass this year.
 - a. JJPOCC’s Goals Subcommittee – Ann Marie-DeGraffenreidt
 - i. No update

V. **DCJ *The Color of Justice* – DCJ**

- a. DCJ hosted a *Color of Justice* event Sept. 30th. Program led by CTJJA with presentations by Attorney Fran Carino and an introduction by Chief State’s Attorney Kevin Kane. The two and a half hour event elicited good discussion amongst the approx. 40 attendees from DCJ. Focused on issues specific to prosecutors. Prosecutors yearning for more statistics, more detail on the statistics provided, and/or more recent numbers.
- b. CSSD, as part of its cultural competency efforts, held *Color of Justice* event several times. Event most recently had very good response with attendees repeatedly mentioning additional persons and groups that event’s attendees believed should also be in attendance.

VI. **Public awareness initiative with OVA**

- a. Laura Stefan is leaving OVA to return to the LOB. New Victim Advocate, Natasha Pierre, is interested in partnering with REDCJS to hold forums to increase awareness of crime victims’ rights. Will meet again on the 26th at Justice Harper’s Chambers to finalize details of event(s).

VII. **Proposed statutory change – AAAC**

- a. Attorney Fuller & Subira Gordon met with Rep. William Tong, co-Chair of Judiciary Committee, to introduce to him the Commission’s proposed changes to its enabling legislation based on Connecticut’s current needs. Bill was raised in Judiciary Committee, waiting for a public hearing on the bill to be announced. Once it is scheduled, would like Commission members to each testify in support.

VIII. **Proposal from Subira Gordon to host an event**

- a. Would like to hold an event in April to correspond with release of RP3 report. Agenda would include: information on school-based expulsions and arrests, as well as community and non-biased policing.

IX. **Review originally proposed implicit bias jury instruction**

- a. REDCJS did not receive written explanation for denial of language inclusion in jury instruction. Commission will request cause of denied submission.

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X. Other business

- a. Commission would like to host another implicit bias event. Topic keeps being raised again and again, and within multiple contexts, including recently the disparate rates of Connecticut minority children being diagnosed with mental health disorders and subsequently referred to Solnit over white youth. Important to include in event's agenda information on the historical context for disparity in mental health diagnoses of racial/ethnic minorities. Hartford Police Department is hosting training on implicit bias; Yale Police Department was able to secure two seats in the training; Chief will send Attorney Brown name of officer responsible for planning training. REDCJS will establish working group on implicit bias. Confirmed members: Troy Brown, Preston Tisdale and Regina Rush-Kittle.
- b. Regina Rush-Kittle sent Aileen Keays information on the training Jesenia Delgado used to administer to DESPP staff on race. Department believes training had positive impact on officer behavior: in one year, DESPP recorded 1,072 motor vehicle violations and only four bias-based reports filed against them. The most bias-based reports filed against the department in one year were five, the least being two.

XI. Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:35pm